

might support extending the statute of limitations, but that Congress did not establish rules applicable to the case at bar. With this legislation, we have the opportunity to provide closure for a group of claimants—all over 90 years old—and the ability close the book on a tragic chapter in history.

Racism, and its violent manifestations, are part of nation's past that we cannot avoid. With the prosecution of historical civil rights claims, both civil and criminal, we encourage a process of truth and reconciliation which can heal historic wounds. In this case, the Court took "no great comfort" in finding that there was no legal avenue through which the plaintiffs could bring their claims. The "Tulsa-Greenwood Riot Accountability Act" would simply give Tulsans and all Oklahomans, white and black, victims and non-victims, their day in court. Without that opportunity, we will all continue to be victims of our past.

MR. MIGUEL IGNACIO TINAJERO—
TEXAS TEACHER OF THE YEAR
FOR 1995

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, El Paso, Texas has many great teachers and today I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate my long-time friend Miguel Ignacio Tinajero, a teacher at Ramona Elementary School in the Ysleta Independent School District, for being selected as the 1995 Texas Teacher of the Year. This is the highest honor that the State of Texas can award to a teacher and the program selects only the best teachers to represent the state in the National Teacher of the Year Program. Mr. Miguel Ignacio Tinajero is one of the finest teachers in the El Paso area community, and I am grateful that he has served our children with such passion and dedication.

Mr. Miguel Ignacio Tinajero is recognized for his innovative approach and teaching methods to reach bilingual students. He developed effective programs to teach children both academic and literacy skills and became the favorite teacher of the fifth- and sixth-graders at Ramona Elementary School. Mr. Tinajero is praised by students, parents, and fellow teachers in the El Paso community for his dedication and commitment to youth.

Mr. Miguel Ignacio Tinajero is part of a larger history of educational excellence in El Paso. I am proud to note that to date El Paso area educators have been chosen as Texas Teachers of the Year nine times. The National Teacher of the Year Program began in 1952 and continues as the oldest, most prestigious national honors program that focuses public attention on excellence in teaching.

I am proud of the work of our teachers, and I am committed to ensuring that education remains a top priority in this Congress. Thank you.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF
THE 2009 PRINCE WILLIAM AMERICAN
RED CROSS AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recipients of the 2009 Prince William American Red Cross Awards. These individuals and their work with the Red Cross stand as an example of dedication and service for the benefit and safety of the community.

The Elizabeth Smith Davies Award commemorates the hard work and dedication of Red Cross volunteers and staff members with at least twenty-five years of service. Jean Johnson is receiving this award for her thirty years of involvement in the Red Cross. Her years of service include training thousands of community members in Red Cross health and safety programs, including training for family care giving, responding to emergencies and CPR/AED/First Aid certification. Ms. Johnson's service combines education, safety and a positive attitude that encourages those around her to take an active role in Red Cross initiatives.

Rear Admiral James E. Miller's five-year membership of the Board of Directors merits the Dr. Gail Kettlewell Award for outstanding volunteer leadership and service. As an active member of the board, Admiral Jim Miller is the chair of the Strategic Planning Committee and a member of the Governance and Service Delivery Committee. He and his wife, Anna, are enthusiastic fundraisers. Each year they go out into the Haymarket and Gainesville communities to request support for the annual silent auction at the "March is Red Cross Month" celebration. Admiral Miller is always looking for new members, volunteers, and opportunities for the Red Cross by spreading the word of the Red Cross' mission wherever someone will listen.

The Brownie B. Smith Award is the preeminent award for volunteer leadership and is bestowed upon individuals who have exemplified sustained dedication and leadership in a volunteer capacity. The recipient, Marty French, serves in any capacity that will further the cause of the Prince William American Red Cross. His involvement in the Disaster Response Team is leadership from the front. He assists victims displaced by fire or broken water pipes and can be depended on to lead Red Cross emergency response any time of day or night.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the staff and volunteers of the Prince William American Red Cross. When a community is hit by disaster, it is often the Red Cross that provides comfort and assistance. The efforts of individual members are responsible for the organization's outstanding reputation, and I am honored to recognize Jean Johnson, Rear Admiral James E. Miller and Marty French for doing their part to uphold this tradition of excellence.

HONORING ILWU LOCAL 29

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a time-honored and long-revered labor union that has created many well-paying jobs on our Pacific west coast—the International Longshoremen Worker's Union (the ILWU)!

The ILWU Local 29 was granted its charter with jurisdiction embracing all workers in or about the City and County of San Diego, California on September 21, 1937. Local 29 embraces workers of all races and beliefs, who come together with one single purpose: to achieve a better life for themselves and their families. It is a union that is democratic, committed and dedicated to the idea that solidarity with other workers and other unions is the key to achieving economic security and a peaceful world.

Through the years the Local 29 membership has grown and work opportunities have improved. ILWU Local 29 dispatch longshoremen to a variety of jobs every day. Today longshoremen work the cruise ships, vessels transporting fruit, automobiles, cement, and a wide variety of break bulk cargo.

In July 2002, the ILWU negotiated a six year contract covering all locals in California, Washington, and Oregon that secured decent living wages and medical benefits covering the children and families of these outstanding workers!

I urge my colleagues to join with me today to honor ILWU Local 29!

MR. ANTONIO A. FIERRO—TEXAS
TEACHER OF THE YEAR FOR 1997

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, El Paso, Texas has a history of producing strong, passionate, and caring educators who motivate and engage our children to become lifelong learners. As a parent and grandparent, I am grateful for the contributions of our teachers in the El Paso area, and today I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Antonio A. Fierro, a teacher at Sierra Vista Elementary School in the Socorro Independent School District, for being selected as the 1997 Texas Teacher of the Year. The Texas Teacher of the Year is the highest honor that the State of Texas can award to a teacher. Facilitated by the Texas Education Agency, the Texas Teacher of the Year Program annually recognizes and rewards teachers who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and excellence in teaching. Mr. Antonio E. Fierro represents the best of the best in the teaching profession, and we salute his energy, efforts, and dedication.

Mr. Fierro knew from a young age that he would be teacher. His grandmother retired as a principal in Mexico, and he has vivid memories of sitting in his sixth grade social studies class and imagining himself teaching in front of a classroom. Fierro attended El Paso Community College and graduated with honors